09/890363

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission: 19

Application Number	09/890,363 (Patent No. 7,098,190)
Filing Date	January 27, 2000 (Issued August 29, 2006)
First Named Inventor	David Lawrence Beckel
Art Unit	1635
Examiner Name	MCGARRY, SEAN
Attorney Docket Number	E3697-00005

Certificate
FEB 26 2007
of Correction

ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) _____
  - ☐ Landscape Table on CD
- ☐ After Allowance Communication to TC
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☑ Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):

Request for Certificate of Correction (2 pg.); and
Certificate of Correction (1 pg.)
Copy of Amendment filed 4/21/06 (15 pgs.)

Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Duane Morris LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Suzanne L. Biggs		
Date	February 21, 2007	Reg. No.	30,158

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

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Attorney Docket No. E3697-00005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Patent No.: 7,098,190 B1
Issued: August 29, 2006
Application No.: 09/890,363
Filed: January 27, 2000
Inventors: Becker et al.
For: FORMULATIONS COMPRISING ANTISENSE NUCLEOTIDES TO CONNEXINS

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE
37 C.F.R. §1.8(A)
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Confirmation No.: 1593
Group Art Unit: 1635
Primary Examiner: MCGARRY, SEAN

Certificate of Corrections Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

This Request for Certificate of Correction is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.322(a) and 1.323 to correct errors that were partially the fault of the applicants. A fee of $100 is believed due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, if any other fees are due, please charge any such fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

The subject patent, U.S. Patent 7,098,190 B1 was printed with errors as noted on the attached Certificate of Correction. Applicants respectfully request that the Certificate be entered as requested.

In the Specification:

Column 10, line 29: Please insert Table 1: The Effect on Limb Development of ODN Application Between Stages 8 & 14 of Chick Embryo Development – before the word "Antisense".

FEB 2 6 2007

In the Claims:

Column 27, Line 32, delete "a" before the word "connexin".

Column 27, Line 39, delete "a" before the word "connexin".

Column 29, Line 7, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

Column 29, Line 9, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

Column 29, Line 11, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

Column 29, Line 13, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

Column 29, Line 15, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

Column 29, Line 17, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

Column 29, Line 19, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

Column 29, Line 21, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

Column 29, Line 23, delete "any of" before the word "claim"

Column 29, Line 25, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

REMARKS

The subject patent, U.S. Patent 7,098,190 B1 was printed with errors as noted on the attached Certificate of Correction. Applicants respectfully request that the Certificate be entered as requested.

In the Specification, the caption "Table 1" was omitted in the issued patent.

An amendment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.312 was filed on April 21, 2006. Entry of the Amendment in its entirety was acknowledged by the PTO in a communication dated May 25, 2006. In the Amendment filed April 21, 2006 the term "any of" was deleted in claims 81 through 90 and 92 through 101. A copy of the Amendment as filed on April 21, 2006, the self-addressed postcard stamped by the PTO and PTO Form 271 acknowledging entry thereof mailed on May 25, 2006 are enclosed herewith as evidence.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 21, 2007

Suzanne L. Biggs
Reg. No.30,158

DMZ\803669.1

PTO/SB/44 (04-05)
Approved for use through 04/30/2007. OMB 0651-0033
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(Also Form PTO-1050)

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,098,190 B1

APPLICATION NO.: 09/890,190

ISSUE DATE : August 29, 2006

INVENTOR(S) : Becker et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 10, Line 29, insert -- Table 1: The Effect on Limb Development of ODN Application Between Stages 8 & 14 of Chick Embryo Development -- before the word "Antisense".

Column 27, Line 32, delete "a" before the word "connexin".

Column 27, Line 39, delete "a" before the word "connexin".

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Column 29, Line 23, delete "any of" before the word "claim"

Column 29, Line 25, delete "any of" before the word "claim".

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

Duane Morris LLP
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San Diego, CA 92101

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Becker et al.
Application No.: 09/890,363
Filed: November 2, 2001
Docket No.: E3697-00005
Title: FORMULATIONS COMPRISING ANTISENSE NUCLEOTIDES TO CONNEXINS
Express Mail Label No. EV 678346071 US

The Patent Office acknowledges and has stamped hereon the date of receipt of the following ~~items~~: Transmittal (1 page); Amendment Under 37 §1.312 (~~12~~ pages); Copy of Filing Receipt (2 pages); Photocopy of certified NZ priority document NZ500190 (52 pages); and, Copy of 1999 *Dev. Gen.* publication (10 pages)

Dated: April 21, 2006

DMZ\639857.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Becker et al.
Application No.: 09/890,363
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Dated: April 21, 2006

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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(To be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission: 77

Application Number	09/890,369
Filing Date	November 2, 2001
First Named Inventor	Becker et al.
Art Unit	1635
Examiner Name	MCGARRY, SEAN
Attorney Docket Number	(NEW) E3897-00008

ENCLOSURES *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
  - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☑ Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.312
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53
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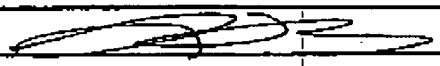
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☑ Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):

Copy of Certified Priority Document NZ 500190 (52 pages); Copy of Filing Receipt (2 pages); Copy of 1999 Dev. Gen. Publication (10 pages); and, 1 Return Postcard

Remarks

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Duane Morris LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	Suzanne L. Biggs		
Date	April 21, 2006	Reg. No.	30,158

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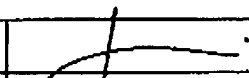
Signature			
Typed or printed name	Julie Freiburger	Date	April 21, 2006

DM2/689879v1

FEB 26 2007

Attorney Docket No.: E3697-00005

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	Examiner: McGarry, Sean
David L. Becker et al.	Art Unit: 1635
Serial No.: 09/890,363	Confirmation No.: 1593
Filed: November 2, 2001	Customer No.: 53897
For: FORMULATIONS COMPRISING ANTISENSE NUCLEOTIDES TO CONNEXINS	

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4/21/06
Dated

Julie Freiburger

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.312

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.312, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and that the Remarks be considered in connection with the instant application.

No fee is believed due in connection with this submission, however, if any fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the requisite fee, or any fees that may be due in connection with this and the attached papers, or with this application during its entire pendency, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

Amendments to the Specification being on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

In the Specification: (page and line numbers are based on the PCT specification)

On page 1, please add the following paragraph as the first paragraph of the specification:

This application is a U.S. national stage application of International Application No. PCT/GB00/00238, filed January 27, 2000 (published as WO00/44409 on August 3, 2000) and claims the benefit of priority to NZ 333928 (filed January 27, 1999) and NZ 500190 (filed October 7, 1999). The contents of each of which are hereby incorporated in their entireties.

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, lines 14-18 with the following amended paragraph:

All ODN's were applied at 0.5-1.0 [[mM]] µM final concentration following dose dependent analysis during preliminary experiments covering a range of concentrations from 0.05 [[mM]] µM to 50 [[mM]] µM. General toxicity effects only became apparent with ODN concentrations greater than 10 [[mM]] µM. ODN gel mixtures were prepared from concentrated stock solutions stored at -80 °C.

Please replace the paragraph on page 20, lines 9-19 with the following amended paragraph:

Oligodeoxynucleotides (ODN's)

Unmodified ODN's were delivered in Pluronic F-127 gel (BASF, Germany) in phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Pluronic gel is liquid at low temperatures (0-4 °C) and sets at physiological temperatures, and is also a mild surfactant. Unmodified ODN's normally have a half life of approximately 20 min in cells (Wagner, 1994) but the Pluronic gel loading method provides a continual diffusion source, the gel acting as a reservoir Becker et al., (1999)). ODN's specific to connexin 43 were applied, or control random ODN's of similar base composition, at [[2mM]] 2 µM final concentration. Gel only controls were also carried out. ODN's were 30 mers analysed to show that no hairpin looping or homodimerisation should occur.

Please replace the paragraph on page 27, lines 10-24 with the following amended paragraph:

Wistar rats were anaesthetised and their spinal cord exposed. A standard hemisection lesion was then made in the cord and 5 ml of chilled Pluronic gel, containing either antisense or sense ODN's to connexin 43 [[(5mM)]] (5 μM) was placed in the lesion. Applications were made blind. The exposed cord was then recovered and the rat returned to its cage. Some animals were sacrificed at 24 hours whereas others were maintained for 12 days and two months in order to determine the extent of neuronal regeneration and the final size of the lesion. For axonal regeneration studies the rats were anaesthetised and their axons severed prior to their entry site to the spinal cord. A pellet of Horse radish peroxidase (HRP) was placed in the cut in order to retrogradely label the axons over a 24 hour period. Next day the rats were sacrificed and their spinal cords removed and fixed in 2% paraformaldehyde. Cords were then pi-ocessed for cryosectioning and serial longitudinal 8 mm sections were taken through the cords. Sections were then immunostained for either connexins or GFAP along with propidium iodide as a nuclear marker, or processed to reveal the HRP.

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

No Admission. The claims presented below are labeled pursuant to the request of the Patent and Trademark Office for convenience in examination. The cancellation of a claim or reference to a claim as "currently amended" is not an admission that the claim was altered for any reason related to patentability. None have been so altered.

1-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a human subject having a wound, which comprises administering to the wound a connexin 43 anti-sense polynucleotide, whereby connexin 43 protein expression is downregulated.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing cell death resulting from a neuronal insult to a human subject, which comprises administering to the site of the neuronal insult a connexin 43 anti-sense polynucleotide, whereby connexin 43 expression is downregulated.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 wherein the neuronal insult is to the brain, spinal cord or optic nerve.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17 in which said anti-sense polynucleotide is administered in a sufficient amount to downregulate connexin 43 expression for at least 24 hours post-administration.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of promoting wound healing in a human which comprises the step of administering to the wound an amount of a connexin 43 anti-sense polynucleotide effective to downregulate connexin 43 expression .

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 or 20 in which the wound is the result of trauma.

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22. (Original) A method according to claim 21 in which trauma is a burn.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 or 20 in which the wound is the result of a surgery.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a human subject to reduce inflammation associated with a wound or associated with a tissue subjected to a physical trauma which comprises the step of administering to the wound or tissue an amount of a connexin 43 anti-sense polynucleotide effective to downregulate connexin 43 expression.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 24 in which the tissue subjected to physical trauma is selected from the group consisting of brain, spinal cord and optic nerve.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of decreasing scar formation following a wound to a human subject which comprises administering to the wound an amount of a connexin 43 anti-sense polynucleotide effective to downregulate a connexin 43 expression.

27-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein said anti-sense polynucleotide is an oligodeoxynucleotide.

44. (Previously Presented) A method according to any of claims 16, 17, 20, 24, or 26 wherein said connexin protein comprises the amino acid sequence coded for by SEQ ID NO. 12.

45. (Previously Presented) A method according to any of claims 16, 17, 20, 24, or 26 wherein said anti-sense polynucleotide is present in a composition a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein said composition is suitable for topical administration.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein said composition is formulated to provide sustained release of the antisense polynucleotide.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein said composition is formulated to provide sustained release of the antisense polynucleotide over at least 24 hours.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 44, wherein the anti-sense polynucleotide is present in a composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle formulated for topical administration.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 44, wherein the anti-sense polynucleotide is in the form of an impregnated dressing.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or vehicle is, or includes, a gel.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 51 in which the gel is a nonionic polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene copolymer gel.

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein the composition further includes a surfactant.

54. (Previously Presented) A method of decreasing cell death in a tissue of a mammal comprising contacting the cells with an effective amount of a connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is an oligodeoxynucleotide.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein said oligodeoxynucleotide is an unmodified phosphodiester oligomer.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 16, 17, 20, 24, 26 or

54, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide binds to at least a portion of a connexin 43 mRNA.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is exactly complementary to at least a portion of said connexin 43 mRNA.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is not exactly complementary to at least a portion of a connexin 43 mRNA.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 16, 17, 20, 24, 26 or 54, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is about 12 to about 40 nucleotides in length.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 16, 17, 20, 24, 26 or 54, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is about 30 nucleotides in length.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 16, 17, 20, 24, 26 or 54, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 16, 17, 20, 24, 26 or 54, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 16, 17, 20, 24, 26 or 54, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO: 3.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said connexin 43 is a human connexin 43.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said mammal is a human.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said tissue is skin.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 or 54, wherein said tissue is neural tissue.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 or 54, wherein said tissue is brain.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 or 54, wherein said tissue is spinal cord.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 or 54, wherein said tissue is connective tissue.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 54-56, 65, 66 or 67, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered to a wound.

73 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72, wherein said wound is a surgical wound.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72, wherein said wound is a burn.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 54-56, 65, 66 or 67, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered to a site of inflammation.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 54-56, 65, 66 or 67, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is disposed in a topical formulation.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said topical formulation comprises a gel.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein said gel is a pluronic gel.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 54-56, 65, 66 or 67, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered by syringe.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 54-56, 58, 59 or 65-67, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

81. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 57, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

82. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 60, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

83. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 61, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

84. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 62, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

85. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 63, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

86. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 64, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

87. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 68, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

88. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 69, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

89. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 70, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

90. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 71, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a gel.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of any of claims 54-56, 58, 59 or 65-67, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

92. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 57, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

93. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 60, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

94. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 61, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

95. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 62, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

96. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 63, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

97. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 64, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

98. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 68, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

99. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 69, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

100. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 70, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

101. (Currently amended) The method of ~~any of~~ claim 71, wherein said connexin 43 antisense polynucleotide is administered as a dressing.

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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments presented in this submission and also that these Remarks be considered. Applicants submit that these amendments are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.312 and represent amendments which may be entered on recommendation of the Primary Examiner.

No fee is believed due in connection with this submission, however, if any fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the requisite fee, or any fees that may be due in connection with this and the attached papers, or with this application during its entire pendency, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

Claims 16 to 26 and 43 to 101 were allowed as set forth in the Notice of Allowance mailed on February 21, 2006. Claims 81 to 90 and 92 to 101 are amended herein to correct minor errors and to clearly set forth claim dependency. Support for the amendments to the claims is found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. Applicant submits that these amendments present no issue of new matter and would require no additional search.

The Specification has been amended to insert a paragraph on the first page which sets forth its priority claims and to correct clerical and other minor errors and to clearly set forth unit concentration symbols on pages 17, 20 and 27.

The present application is a national stage application of PCT/GB00/00238 (WO00/44409), having an international filing date of January 27, 2000, and claiming the benefit of priority to the following New Zealand patent applications: NZ 333928 and NZ 500190. Certified priority documents were timely deposited with the International Bureau during the international phase of the application and were later formally transmitted to the USPTO in accordance with requirements for entry into the National Stage pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §371. Applicants' claims of priority were acknowledged in the Filing Receipt from the USPTO mailed January 8, 2002. A copy of the Filing Receipt is attached to this submission. Applicants note that the foreign priority claim is properly acknowledged by the USPTO according to entries on PAIR.

In the Specification, on page 1, a new paragraph is added as the (new) first paragraph which sets forth the relationship of the present application to the New Zealand applications from which it claims priority.

The paragraphs at page 17, lines 14 to 18; page 20, lines 9 to 19; and page 27, lines 10 to 24 have been amended to correct minor errors in the unit concentration symbols, where in certain instances "mM" was used instead of "μM". Applicants note that one of skill in the art would have recognized this. In particular, on pages 17, 20, and 27 of the published international application, the specification contains the "mM" units where "μM" were clearly intended and is the appropriate unit. Applicants note further that in priority document NZ500190, the "μM" symbol was used. A photocopy of the certified NZ priority document (NZ500190) is enclosed herein for the Examiner's convenience.

The clarifications on pages 17, 20, and 27 also find support on pages 11, 13, and 20 of the NZ 500190 priority document respectively as well in a publication (*Developmental Genetics 24: 33-42; 1999*) published after filing of NZ500190 and which includes experiments which are substantially the same. A copy of the 1999 *Dev. Gen.* publication is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the specification are directed to changes that are in the nature of formal matters and, thus, represent amendments which may be properly presented under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

Applicants respectfully request that the present amendments be entered and the above Remarks be considered.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview would expedite prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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